

## N E W S R E L E A S E

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### **California's Unemployment Rate Decreases to 4.8 Percent** **Payroll Employment Down 10,800 Jobs**

**SACRAMENTO** – California's unemployment rate was 4.8 percent in March, down from 5.0 percent in February, the state Employment Development Department (EDD) reported today. A year ago, in March 2005, California's unemployment rate was 5.5 percent.

According to EDD's survey of employers, nonfarm payroll employment in California declined by 10,800 jobs over the month, for a total of 14,956,300.

According to the separate survey of households, the number of Californians holding jobs in March was 16,874,000. This was an increase of 58,000 from February, and up 239,000 from the employment total in March of last year.

The number of people unemployed in California was 848,000 – a decline of 31,000 over the month, and down by 119,000 compared with March of last year.

Of the unemployed, 302,000 were laid off, 86,300 left their jobs voluntarily, and the remaining were either new entrants or reentrants into the labor market, or persons who completed temporary jobs.

#### **UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)**

In related data, the EDD reported that there were 378,630 people receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits during the March survey week. This compares with 353,014 last month and 420,859 last year. At the same time, new claims for unemployment insurance were 37,573 in March 2006, compared with 35,186 in February and 40,316 in March of last year.

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## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

EDD's report on payroll employment (wage and salary jobs) in the nonfarm industries of California totaled 14,956,300 in March, a net loss of 10,800 jobs since the February survey. This followed a gain of 31,400 jobs (as revised) in February.

Four of the categories (**natural resources and mining; information; financial activities; and leisure and hospitality**) added jobs over the month, gaining 11,400 jobs. The leisure and hospitality industry showed the largest gain, up by 6,500 jobs. Seven categories (**construction; manufacturing; trade, transportation and utilities; professional and business services; educational and health services; other services; and government**) reported job declines this month, down 22,200 jobs. Construction posted the largest decline over the month, down by 9,400 jobs.

In a year-over-year comparison (March 2005 to March 2006), nonfarm payroll employment in California increased by 262,100 jobs (up 1.8 percent).

Nine industry divisions (**natural resources and mining; construction; trade, transportation and utilities; financial activities; professional and business services; educational and health services; leisure and hospitality; other services; and government**) posted job gains over the year, adding 280,900 jobs. On a numerical basis, professional and business services showed the strongest employment growth, adding 65,400 jobs (a 3.1 percent increase). On a percentage of growth basis, natural resources and mining showed the strongest gain, up 4.8 percent (adding 1,100 jobs).

Two categories (**manufacturing and information**) posted job declines over the year, down 18,800 jobs. On a numerical basis, manufacturing employment showed the largest decline, down by 11,500 jobs (a decline of 0.8 percent).

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (**NOT** SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

Over the month, employment in **government** showed the largest non-seasonally adjusted gain, up by 17,400 jobs. The gains were concentrated in local and state government, primarily in local and state government education, which added 8,400 jobs and 3,100 jobs, respectively. **Construction** recorded the only non-seasonally adjusted loss, down by 1,000 jobs.

The **professional and business services** industries reported the largest gain over the year, up 58,500 jobs. The largest gains were in the professional, scientific and technical services sector, which was up by 32,100 jobs, and the administrative and support and waste services sector, which was up by 28,000 jobs. The largest decrease over the year was in **manufacturing**, which was down by 11,800 jobs. This included a loss of 7,400 jobs in durable goods manufacturing and 4,400 jobs in nondurable goods manufacturing.

Seasonally adjusted payroll detail follows:

**WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA**  
(Amounts in thousands)

Industrial Classification	March 2006 (prelim.)	February 2006	March 2005	Change Over 12 months (Percent)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers . . . . .	14,956.3	14,967.1	14,694.2	1.8
Natural resources and mining . . . . .	24.2	24.1	23.1	4.8
Construction . . . . .	926.1	935.5	884.2	4.7
Manufacturing . . . . .	1,504.6	1,505.5	1,516.1	-0.8
Trade, transportation and utilities . . . . .	2,838.8	2,842.9	2,798.1	1.5
Information . . . . .	473.3	470.0	480.6	-1.5
Financial activities . . . . .	941.8	940.3	918.3	2.6
Professional and business services . . . . .	2,192.6	2,195.7	2,127.2	3.1
Educational and health services . . . . .	1,603.3	1,603.7	1,573.2	1.9
Leisure and hospitality . . . . .	1,511.0	1,504.5	1,460.7	3.4
Other services . . . . .	515.5	517.6	506.7	1.7
Government* . . . . .	2,425.1	2,427.3	2,406.0	0.8
Agriculture . . . . .	378.1	394.9	370.6	2.0

\*Includes all civilian employees of federal, state, and local governments.

**TABLE A**  
**EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA**

	March 2006	February 2006	January 2006	March 2005
Civilian labor force <sup>a</sup> . . . . .	17,722,000	17,695,000	17,714,000	17,602,000
Total civilian employment . . . . .	16,874,000	16,816,000	16,855,000	16,635,000
Unemployment . . . . .	848,000	879,000	859,000	967,000
Seasonally adjusted rate % . . . .	4.8	5.0	4.8	5.5
US seasonally adjusted rate % .	4.7	4.8	4.7	5.1

**TABLE B**  
**EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, UNADJUSTED DATA**

	March 2006	February 2006	January 2006	March 2005
Civilian labor force <sup>a</sup> . . . . .	17,689,000	17,666,000	17,658,000	17,545,000
Total civilian employment . . . . .	16,801,000	16,718,000	16,722,000	16,532,000
Unemployment . . . . .	888,000	948,000	936,000	1,013,000
Unadjusted rate % . . . . .	5.0	5.4	5.3	5.8

<sup>a</sup>Labor force by place of residence including workers involved in trade disputes.

**MONTHLY LABOR FORCE DATA FOR COUNTIES**  
**MARCH 2006; 2005 BENCHMARK**  
**NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE
<b>STATE TOTAL</b>	<b>17,688,900</b>	<b>16,801,400</b>	<b>887,500</b>	<b>5.0%</b>
ALAMEDA	746,800	713,300	33,500	4.5%
ALPINE	660	640	30	3.8%
AMADOR	16,880	15,880	1,000	5.9%
BUTTE	100,000	93,400	6,600	6.6%
CALAVERAS	20,930	19,660	1,270	6.0%
COLUSA	9,870	8,200	1,670	16.9%
CONTRA COSTA	512,400	490,300	22,100	4.3%
DEL NORTE	10,570	9,810	760	7.1%
EL DORADO	92,100	87,600	4,500	4.9%
FRESNO	397,400	359,800	37,600	9.5%
GLENN	11,360	10,270	1,090	9.6%
HUMBOLDT	60,700	57,100	3,600	6.0%
IMPERIAL	61,100	53,900	7,200	11.9%
INYO	9,360	8,920	430	4.6%
KERN	315,700	287,300	28,400	9.0%
KINGS	54,000	48,600	5,400	10.0%
LAKE	25,860	23,920	1,940	7.5%
LASSEN	12,330	11,060	1,270	10.3%
LOS ANGELES	4,892,300	4,659,800	232,500	4.8%
MADERA	60,800	55,800	5,000	8.2%
MARIN	129,300	124,700	4,600	3.6%
MARIPOSA	8,320	7,740	580	7.0%
MENDOCINO	43,670	41,070	2,600	6.0%
MERCED	98,700	87,600	11,000	11.2%
MODOC	3,920	3,530	400	10.1%
MONO	9,410	9,070	340	3.6%
MONTEREY	200,500	181,000	19,500	9.7%
NAPA	71,400	68,700	2,800	3.9%
NEVADA	49,390	47,110	2,280	4.6%
ORANGE	1,596,300	1,542,800	53,500	3.4%
PLACER	163,900	157,300	6,600	4.0%
PLUMAS	10,020	8,950	1,070	10.7%
RIVERSIDE	849,200	811,500	37,700	4.4%
SACRAMENTO	678,700	647,200	31,500	4.6%
SAN BENITO	25,300	22,900	2,300	9.3%
SAN BERNARDINO	864,100	825,800	38,300	4.4%
SAN DIEGO	1,502,900	1,445,100	57,900	3.9%
SAN FRANCISCO	417,200	398,700	18,500	4.4%
SAN JOAQUIN	282,200	260,000	22,200	7.9%
SAN LUIS OBISPO	131,700	126,600	5,000	3.8%
SAN MATEO	361,800	347,800	14,000	3.9%
SANTA BARBARA	210,400	201,200	9,100	4.3%
SANTA CLARA	812,700	774,500	38,200	4.7%
SANTA CRUZ	140,600	130,400	10,300	7.3%
SHASTA	81,600	75,500	6,100	7.4%
SIERRA	1,570	1,410	160	10.2%
SISKIYOU	18,360	16,490	1,870	10.2%
SOLANO	210,100	199,400	10,700	5.1%
SONOMA	253,400	242,800	10,700	4.2%
STANISLAUS	226,800	207,100	19,800	8.7%
SUTTER	41,800	37,300	4,500	10.7%
TEHAMA	25,020	23,250	1,770	7.1%
TRINITY	5,200	4,570	630	12.1%
TULARE	181,700	163,400	18,300	10.1%
TUOLUMNE	25,990	24,300	1,680	6.5%
VENTURA	422,700	405,600	17,100	4.0%
YOLO	95,400	89,900	5,600	5.8%
YUBA	26,400	23,800	2,600	9.9%